

XLIV.—Description of a new Pit-Viper from Brazil.

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Lachesis itapetiningæ.

Snout obtusely pointed, with strong, slightly raised canthus. Rostral a little deeper than broad; nasal divided; upper head-scales small, imbricate, strongly keeled; supraocular large, separated from its fellow by 7 to 9 longitudinal series of scales; internasals large and in contact with each other; a large canthal; two or three postoculars and a subocular, which is separated from the labials by one series of scales; loreal pit separated from the labials; temporal scales keeled; 8 upper labials, third and fourth largest. Scales strongly keeled, in 25 rows. Ventrals 150–152; anal entire; subcaudals 28–29. Pale reddish brown above, with large transversely oval or quadrangular dark light-edged spots disposed in two alternating series, some of the spots of the two sides meeting on the middle line of the back, others, on the sides, broken up into two or more; sides of snout whitish; a broad oblique dark band below the eye; a transversely oval dark spot on the upper surface of the snout, and a wavy dark band, continuous or interrupted, on each side of the top of the head from the interocular region to the nape; belly white, much speckled or blotched with brown, the white of the lower parts sometimes sharply defined from the brown of the upper, on the lower row of scales.

Total length 400 mm.; tail 55.

Two specimens, females, from Itapetininga, a city in the State of São Paulo. The British Museum is indebted for these specimens to Dr. Vital Brasil, Director of the Serum-therapeutic Institute of S. Paulo, who recognized them as belonging to a distinct species, remarkable for its small size, the above-described specimens being the largest obtained so far. The name *Lachesis itapetiningæ* was suggested to me by Dr. Vital Brasil.

This *Lachesis itapetiningæ* is nearly related to *L. Neuwiedii*, Wagl., from which it is easily distinguished by its stouter form, as expressed by the lower number of ventral and caudal shields.

Among other specimens of *Lachesis* from the State of São Paulo I was pleased to examine one of the "Jararacuçu," a remarkable variety of *L. lanceolatus* growing to a length of over 2 metres, the pattern of coloration of which has been figured by Jan (Icon. Ophid. xlvii. pl. ii. fig. 3). It agrees entirely in structure with the true "Fer-de-Lance," with which it is completely connected by intermediate patterns of coloration.